Upgradation of Gaya airport

622. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to upgrade Gaya airport to international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide foolproof security arrangements at the airport in view of the growing threats from terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) At present, Gaya Airport is suitable for limited International flights. The existing Terminal Building has been renovated and extended to cater to 50 arriving and 50 departing passengers, with Custom and Immigration facilities. The construction work of new Terminal Building, with modern passenger facilities to cater to 500 passengers at a time, at an estimated cost of Rs.10.78 crores, is in progress. The work for strengthening of runway, taxi-way and apron for operation of AB-320 class of aircraft has been completed. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is also planning to construction a new Technical Block, Fire Station etc. AAI has also a proposal to extend the runway from 7500 feet to 9000 feet for operation of AB-300 type of aircraft.

(c) All possible steps like deployment of security personnel of CISF, installation of security equipments, construction of boundary wall, regular patrolling etc. have been taken to provide foolproof security arrangements at the Gaya Airport.

Appointment of Traffic Assistants on compassionate grounds

623. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Indian Airlines for appointment of Traffic Assistants on compassionate ground;